

# FRIDAY NIGHT FACTS

OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



MITCHELL E. DANIELS, JR., GOVERNOR  
PAULA PARKER-SAWYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## GETTING THINGS DONE

### MAY 13-20, 2007

## IN INDIANA

### 500,000th AmeriCorps Member Takes Oath of Service

The number of Americans who have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to “get things done for America” and dedicated themselves to intense service in exchange for an education award will pass the half-million mark this spring, just one of the many achievements that the first-ever AmeriCorps Week will recognize this May 13-20.

During AmeriCorps Week, AmeriCorps and its nonprofit and community partners across the country will thank AmeriCorps members and alumni for the impact they’ve had, acknowledge the many contributions of public and private community groups to the program, and urge more Americans of all ages and backgrounds to sign up for a year of service in AmeriCorps.

“AmeriCorps members help our communities tackle their toughest problems—from poverty and illiteracy to crime and disasters—through a new mix of social entrepreneurship, civic engagement and volunteering,” said David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees AmeriCorps programs including state and national grants, VISTA, and NCCC.

“It’s hard to exaggerate how much stronger our communities and our nation are today as a result of the contributions of those 500,000 AmeriCorps members,” said Eisner. “What they get done during their service is extraordinary; and their engagement in their communities in their years after AmeriCorps is even more inspiring. We want AmeriCorps Week to inspire millions more Americans to jump on the service bandwagon, whether through AmeriCorps programs, VISTA, NCCC or other programs like Citizen Corps or Peace Corps.”



AmeriCorps members assembling for celebration.

### By the numbers in Indiana

- \* 511 AmeriCorps Members currently serving.
- \* 7,728 AmeriCorps Members (including VISTA and NCCC) who have participated between 3/1/94 and 4/12/07.
- \* 9,542,126 total AmeriCorps hours served between 3/1/94 and 4/12/07.
- \* \$19,987,620 total AmeriCorps education awards earned between 3/1/94 and 4/12/07.

AmeriCorps Week provides an opportunity for AmeriCorps members, alums, grantees, program partners, and friends to shine a spotlight on the work done by members in communities across Indiana – and to motivate more Hoosiers to join AmeriCorps or volunteer in their communities. Take a look at some of the upcoming AmeriCorps Week activities.

### *What's Happening Around Indiana This Week?*

- \* The Mayor of Elkhart, Dave Miller, has declared this week AmeriCorps Week in the City of Elkhart. A representative of the Mayor's Office will read a proclamation before members of Elkhart EnviroCorps and seventy 4<sup>th</sup> graders begin a day of environmental education and awareness.
- \* Members of Scott County AmeriCorps will be seen around the county working on beautification projects.
- \* Indiana Mentor Corps members will be engaging in community clean-up efforts in the Lafayette area alongside the youth they serve, their families, and other members of the community.
- \* Members of the Community Health Educator/Community Lay Health Worker program will be socializing together over dinner in Bloomington, celebrating their AmeriCorps service.
- \* The local television media in Terre Haute will be interviewing Sycamore Service Corps members, providing coverage of their activities at their service sites.
- \* Throughout the state, members of Indiana HabiCorps will be participating in the fourth annual Cover Indiana Bicycle Tour to raise support and awareness for service activities.
- \* AmeriCorps members from across Indianapolis and Indiana will celebrate National AmeriCorps Week with a brief ceremony on the south steps of the Indiana Statehouse, followed by a day of community service on Saturday, May 19. The ceremony will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will include a message from U.S. Representative Julia Carson's office, as well as proclamations from the Governor's and Mayor's offices. AmeriCorps members will then participate in a group photo at 8:30 a.m., before splitting up and heading to service projects around Indianapolis. Service projects include planting flowers on Massachusetts Avenue, in partnership with the Riley Area Development Corporation and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, and a clean-up at Barton Park along Fall Creek, in partnership with the Near North Development Corporation and Indy Parks.



## What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is a network of local, state, and national service programs that connects more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

AmeriCorps members serve with more than 2,000 nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based and community organizations. Since 1994, more than 400,000 men and women have provided needed assistance to millions of Americans across the nation through their AmeriCorps service.

AmeriCorps opens the door for citizens to serve in a variety of ways. Through their service and the volunteers they mobilize, AmeriCorps members address critical needs in communities throughout America, including:

- Tutoring and mentoring disadvantaged youth
- Fighting illiteracy
- Improving health services
- Building affordable housing
- Teaching computer skills
- Cleaning parks and streams
- Managing or operating after-school programs
- Helping communities respond to disasters
- Building organizational capacity

Full-time members who complete their service earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of \$4,725 to pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans. Members who serve part-time receive a partial Award. Some AmeriCorps members may also receive a modest living allowance during their term of service.

AmeriCorps is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, an independent federal agency created to connect Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and their nation. The Corporation also oversees Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America. Together these programs engage more than 1.5 million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service each year.

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## Send an AmeriCorps Week E-Card

Go to <http://www.americorpsweekgreetings.com/> to choose the message you wish to send.





## STATE OF INDIANA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
INDIANAPOLIS

## PROCLAMATION

Executive Order

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETING:

WHEREAS, Hoosiers are a dedicated and caring people who have a long and proud tradition of helping their neighbors and those less fortunate than themselves; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members exemplify this dedication and selflessness; and

WHEREAS, committed AmeriCorps members bring unique skills, services, and resources to bear on the struggles faced by Hoosier families; and

WHEREAS, the programs of AmeriCorps represent an avenue toward addressing our State's unmet educational, human, public safety and environmental needs and expanding the options available for enhancing the quality of life for all Hoosiers; and

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana has greatly benefited from the service of AmeriCorps members; and

WHEREAS, it is right and proper to recognize and thank those who have served, and continue to serve, through AmeriCorps;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim  
May 13 - 20, 2007 as

## AMERICORPS WEEK

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Indiana at the Capitol in Indianapolis on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2007.

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
Governor of Indiana

ATTEST:

Todd Rokita  
Secretary of State